

Notable NEWS from

364

ESSEX,

OR,

A True Account of the Most Remarkable

TRIAL

OF

The Person for ROBBING the

Famous Tinker of

TILBURY.

AS ALSO,

Of the Two Most Notorious Highway-Men
of England, Condemned; And others that re-
ceived Sentence at Chelmsford Assizes, April 14. 1679.

With their strange and Impudent Behaviour.

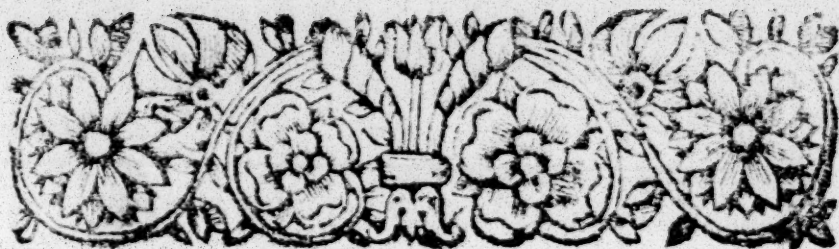
To which is added,

A Narrative of a most lamentable Robbery
in Suffolk, whereby 440 and odde pounds were
taken away: And the Tryal and Condemnation of the
Master-Thief therein concerned, at Bury St. Edmonds,
April 9th. 1679.

And the manner of their being apprehended respectively, &c.

With Allowance.

LONDON, Printed for L. C. 1679.



Notable News from Essex, &c.

THE Assizes for the County of *Essex* began on *Wednesday* the 9th. of this instant *April*, and (by reason of the intervening Fast, and multiplicity of Business,) continued till *Monday* following; where very many *Notorious Malefactors* were brought to Justice.

Seneca, (though an Heathen,) had so elevated a Judgement, as to profess, that if there were neither men to see, nor God to punish, Yet he would not deliberately venture on a rash Action; so mean and sordid a thing (saith that Divine Philosopher) is Vice in it self, and so much below the dignitie of Humane Nature: Surely, that *Essex* *Worthy* shall sit in Judgement one day against many of those that profess themselves Christians, and that of the highest Form. There is an unhappy person who living in very good repute in this County, became so far infatuated with Covetousness and unjust desires; That having a Neighbour dwelling not far from him, that used for his honest livelihood to keep Fairs and Markets remote, with all sorts of Braziers Ware; and knowing him about half a year ago to be absent on such his occasions; He in the Night privately got into his House, and thence, once, or several times loaded

himself, and bore away such Goods and Commodities as he there could find : It was some considerable time before the poor man return'd home; and then finding himself robb'd, and almost undone; much longer it was like to be before he should discover the Author of his Injury; Nor of all men living was the now Prisoner suspected : But after he had thus (securely as he thought) enjoy'd for near a Quarter of a Year the Spoils of Violence, Providence was pleas'd to detect him; some of the Goods being casually seen in his House by one that knew them; where, upon Information being given, and search made, several Skillets, Candlesticks and Chamber-pots, &c. were found concealed in his Chamber; and about his Person a dozen of Spoons, and some other things, in themselves of no extraordinary value, but considerable to him that lost them; and more considerable in the Eye of the Law, by reason of the manner of taking them : However, though he had been so unjust as to commit the Fact, yet upon the apprehension he was so modest as to confess it : Being thereupon committed, and brought to his Tryall, the matter being evidently proved upon him, he was by the Jury brought in Guilty; But upon his very submissive Behaviour, and in consideration that it was his first Offence, the Court after a very Grave and pressing Admonition to him, was pleas'd to Reprieve him, and defer Judgement; but not without acquainting him that he must remember that he enjoy'd his Life but on his future good behaviour, &c.

Another receiv'd a Tryal for a pretended Rape, being prosecuted by his Female Servant, who it seems had a great mind to be his destiny either by marrying or hanging, she perhaps cared not much which, but was prevented of both; For all she could testify amounted not in any measure to a Rape, but rather appear'd a frivolous and ill-advis'd Prosecution; so that the Gentleman finding Security, was discharged. there

There was also Tried and Condemned Two Notorious Highway-men, stout proper Fellows, and desperately Resolute; It was known that they had Robb'd in most Counties about *London*, which they impudently express'd, by saying, They Themselves had rid the ~~Home~~ Circuit many a time; There was in all Five of the Gang, whereof one was taken, and Convicted in *Surrey* at the late Assizes there; And these Two not long since, after several Robberies committed in this County, were apprehended on a *Hue and Cry* at a blind Ale-house within Two or Three miles where they had done the Fact; so secure and careless were they of all Pursuit, that they had laid by all their Arms, and were got to Play, and so surpriz'd in a posture not able to make any Resistance; The Evidence swore the Crime positively against them; Nor did they much deny it, but behav'd themselves very audaciously; One of them declaring, that if he must die for nothing, (so he call'd Robbery on the High-way,) he would endeavour to deserve it by doing some signal mischief whilst he lived; and in order to some such ill Intent, when they were carried with the rest on the Fast-day up to Church, He having privately got a massy Club of about Two Foot long hid in his Briches, as the People were crowding to behold them, on a sudden he drew forth the same, and without any provocation, struck a Gentleman wholly a stranger to him, so violent a blow on the shoulders, as made him reel, and ready to fall; and had it lighted (as he aimed it) on his Head, had in all probability kill'd him on the place: The other being askt but Two days before he was condemned, why he would follow such lewd courses? Answer'd with an horrid Oath, *What lewd Courses?* I never kill'd any Body; Nor did I ever in my life rob any Body on a Sunday: 'Tis true, in all the Six days one after another I have done it; But why may not I follow my Trade as well as You

You Yours? with several the like extravagant discourses; But the approach of death startles the most hardened Sinners, when Sentence came to be pass'd, they begg'd very soberly and heartily for their Lives, and received it with serious composed countenances.

With them was Condemned another Fellow for breaking into a House; the Fact was proved plain enough, For he had a pair of Briches on at his Tryal that were then stoln; but it was not found to be a Burglary, but only a simple Felony, which yet was enough to do his business as he had order'd it; For some years ago he had robb'd the very same House, and for that was burnt in the Hand; and now venturing a second time after such fair warning, received Sentence to be Hang'd.

Four Plow-men were arraigned for murdering a Carter; It seems the ways being bad, the Waggoner drove into the Field where they were at Plow, to avoid the deepness of the Road; at this they were offended, and from bad words fell to worse blows, wherein at first the Carters were their matches, or rather had the better of it, forcing their way through the Grounds; which so enraged the others, that getting two more to their aid, they pursued them, and began the Fray afresh; and therein with their Plow Staves gave this poor man so many violent Blows on the Head, Breast, &c. that soon after he dyed: However it being all done in a sudden and continued heat, it was not found to be any Murther, but only Manslaughter, and for the same they were all four Burnt in the Hand. As was likewise another for Stealing forty odd Pounds from one that he workt to, and would gladly now have made himself a Partner with, but could not prove it so to be; but rather that the Money was Feloniously taken.

An Old Offender having Stolen several Cattle from a person of Quality, and thereof Convicted, was ordered to be Transported. And another having Purloin'd a Calf, it was thought fit to provide him some sharp *Orange Sauce*, with *Oyl of Whipcord* to his *Veal*, and so dismiss him.

As for the Pleas of the Crown at the Assizes at *Bury S. Edmunds* for the County of *Suffolk*: The most Material Business, was the Tryal of a Person for breaking in and Robbing an Antient mans House of 400 and forty odd Pounds; which was done by the now Prisoner, and a certain Companion of his, who dyed before the Assizes in Jail. These two being Idle, Loose Livers, having some notice that this man living very Meanly and Lonesome, scarce any body in Family but his Wife and he; had yet oftentimes considerable Parcels of Money in his House: They went to that side of the Country which was remote from their usual abroad; and there after some waiting, found (or rather took) an opportunity, one night to break into the House, and Frighted the Old man and his Wife almost out of their Senses, taking away the quantity of Money aforesaid: Having got this Booty, away they Rid several Miles off toward *Bury*, and there Ranted up and down a great while, not having Wit enough to tell what to do with the Money, though they had the wickedness to Steal it: For in their Frolicks they would fling handfulls of Silver about House at each others Heads, and a thousand other Extravagancies: In so much, that at last an Honest Inne-keeper observing their continual Debauches and plenty of Cash; suspecting those that trifled Money away so lavishly, scarce ever knew the care and pains of coming by it Honestly; the rather for that their Garb, Horses and Behaviour, did not suit with such Expences; began a little subtilly to enquire into the matter, who told him they had lately Sold such

such a Gentleman (dwelling within few Miles) a parcel of Land, and received 300 and odd Pounds, and were resolved to spend the odd Money in a Frolick, &c. When they were gone to Bed, the Inne-keeper rides to this Gentleman, inquires whether he had lately paid any Money to such people lately, who knew nothing at all of them: This Lye told by them, increased their Landlords suspicion, who caused them to be apprehended, and upon discourse the Robbery is heard of, the Old man sent for, who knew their Faces again, and so they were Committed, where one dyed before Tryal, the other was now Sentenced to dye: But the Money Stolen so squandered away, or otherwise hid, that not much above one hundred Pounds of it can be heard of.

There was but one more Condemned at that Assizes; which was for a Burglary and Stealing several Goods: But his Crime, though well deserving Death, is scarce worthy to be related in a Book with all its Circumstances; and therefore we shall no further enlarge.

F I N I S.